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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

REPORT ON THE NINETEENTH SESSION
5-8 May 1997

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NOTE

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INTRODUCTION

1. The nineteenth session of the Commission was held at the ministerial level in accordance with the decision taken by the Commission in its resolution 196 (XVII) of 31 May 1994 on the frequency of sessions of the Commission and the Technical Committee. Paragraph 2 of the resolution reads as follows:

> "[The Commission] Decides also that Commission sessions shall be held in odd years, starting in 1995, in conformity with the budget session of the United Nations and with the cycle to monitor the progress achieved in the programmes of work of the system."

2. The present report, which covers the activities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since its eighteenth session, held in Beirut from 22 to 25 May 1995, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at its 3rd meeting, held in Beirut on 8 May 1997.

3. It was the intention of the secretariat to focus attention on the essential points of the discussions; consequently, the report on the session reflects the most important issues taken up, briefly summarizing the discussions that took place on each agenda item but not including detailed presentations of the views expressed by individual representatives.

I. ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

4. At its final plenary meeting, held on 7 May 1997, the Commission adopted a number of resolutions and decided to submit them to the Economic and Social Council for action. The texts of the resolutions are as follows:

209 (XIX). Programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Noting the progress made during the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 March 1997 in the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the current biennium 1996-1997,

Noting also the changes made by the secretariat in programme activities and the reasons for those changes,

1. *Approves* the said changes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to present in 1998, in his comprehensive report to the member States on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1996-1997, any other changes effected in the programme of work and priorities.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

210 (XIX). Medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 on programme planning, in which the Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001,

Recalling also that the resolution affirmed that the medium-term plan, as adopted, constituted the principal United Nations policy directive for the formulation of the programme budgets for the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001,

Taking note of the medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account the guidelines contained in the report of the Technical Committee on the work of its tenth session, held in Beirut on 5 and 6 May 1997, and to include them in the revised medium-term plan in accordance with the applicable United Nations rules;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its twentieth session on any changes effected in the medium-term plan.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

211 (XIX). Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999[1/]

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996 on programme planning, which approved the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 as a translation of legislative mandates into programmes and the embodiment of the general policy guidelines and objectives set out by the intergovernmental bodies, and also as constituting the principal general policy directive of the United Nations,

Noting with appreciation the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999,

Noting also that the draft programme of work and priorities reflects the strategies and objectives of the medium-term plan,

1. *Approves* the draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999, in accordance with the guidelines contained in the report of the Technical Committee on the work of its tenth session, held in Beirut on 5 and 6 May 1997;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report any changes effected in the programme of work and priorities to the Commission at its twentieth session.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

212 (XIX). Change in the frequency of the meetings of the Committee on Water Resources established by ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII)

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Stressing the importance of resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious of the growing need for the development and conservation of water resources in the ESCWA region,

Recalling the recommendations made by the Committee on Water Resources at its 1st meeting, on 30 March 1997, at which it requested that its meetings be held on an annual rather than a biennial basis in view of the rapid developments taking place in the field of water resources,

Decides to amend paragraph 2 of resolution 205 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on water resources to read as follows:

"*Decides* that the Committee on Water Resources shall hold its meetings yearly".

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

1/ Also referred to in other documents as the "proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999".

213 (XIX). Establishment of a committee on transport in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Aware of the vital role of transport infrastructures in national socio-economic development,

Aware also of the importance of the integration of transport networks with a view to contributing to the acceleration of regional cooperation processes,

Conscious of the important role of the transport sector in facilitating the flow of goods and passengers among countries and regions, thus contributing to the liberalization of international trade, the promotion of tourism and the growth of exports, particularly within the context of the growing trend towards globalization,

Inspired by the steps taken by other United Nations regional commissions for the establishment of specialized committees in various transport fields to ensure the coordination of work at the regional level,

1. *Decides* to establish a committee on transport, made up of representatives of the member States who are specialized in the field of transport, to undertake the following tasks:

(a) Participation in the establishment and formulation of priorities for programmes of work and medium-term plans in the field of transport;

(b) Monitoring of developments in the field of transport in ESCWA member States;

(c) Monitoring of the progress achieved in the activities of the ESCWA secretariat in the field of transport;

(d) Follow-up of international and regional conferences, participation of member States in them and coordination of member States' efforts relating to the implementation of resolutions and recommendations;

2. *Also decides* that, starting in 1999, the committee on transport shall hold its meetings every two years;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the Commission at its twentieth session.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

214 (XIX). Establishment of a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Conscious that the steadily growing trend towards the liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization, the conclusion of a series of multilateral trade agreements within the framework of the World

Trade Organization and the emergence of a large number of economic blocs will transform the international trading system in the future,

Conscious also of the growing interest of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the World Trade Organization and the desire of many of them to join it, and of the importance of defining the positions of the countries of the region and coordinating those positions with respect to the issues involved,

Taking into consideration the appreciation shown by member States for the efforts made by the ESCWA secretariat in this area,[2/] both alone and in cooperation with specialized international organizations,

Aware of the importance of defining the issues that represent concerns of the States members of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia within the new areas that will be discussed in future trade negotiations, such as trade and environment, trade and investment and trade and competition, and the impact that those areas will have on the economic development of the countries of the region,

Inspired by the efforts made by numerous other regional groups in terms of research and studies conducted in those areas and coordination of their positions at the regional level,

1. *Decides* to establish a technical committee on liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization in the countries of the ESCWA region, made up of representatives of the member States who are specialized in this field, to undertake the following tasks:

(a) Participation in the identification of the priorities and concerns of the ESCWA member countries in the field of multilateral trade agreements and negotiations;

(b) Monitoring of international developments in world trade negotiations and the creation and development of other economic and trade blocs, and coordination of the positions of the ESCWA member countries with respect thereto;

(c) Cooperation with the ESCWA secretariat in establishing programmes to assist the countries of the region in outlining appropriate national and regional economic development policies to enable those countries to take greater advantage of the trends towards liberalization of foreign trade and economic globalization;

(d) Establishment of joint programmes with the countries of the region and in cooperation with other regional and international organizations for training, exchange of information and studies;

2. *Also decides* that the committee shall hold its 1st meeting in 1998 and subsequent meetings annually;

2/ See E/ESCWA/19/6.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to follow up the implementation of the present resolution and report thereon to the Commission at its twentieth session.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

215 (XIX). Progress made in facilitating the relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Taking cognizance of the note by the Executive Secretary on the progress made in facilitating the relocation of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon,[1/]

Taking into consideration the presentation made by the Executive Secretary in this regard,

Noting the current preparations for the Commission's relocation to its permanent headquarters in Beirut and the resulting termination of the services of the local staff employed by the Commission in Amman,

Commending the excellent service provided by the local staff of the Commission in Jordan,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* of the plans prepared and the measures adopted by the secretariat, including the plan for the Commission's relocation to its permanent headquarters in Beirut in accordance with a timetable that will not interfere with the carrying out of its programmes and will take into consideration the needs of its staff;

2. *Reiterates its gratitude* to the Government of Lebanon for the efforts made and the arrangements undertaken by it to provide a headquarters that satisfies the needs and requirements of the United Nations;

3. *Reiterates its thanks* to the Government of Iraq for the facilities provided throughout the Commission's presence in Baghdad and its gratitude to the Government of Jordan for the facilities provided to the Commission during its stay in Jordan;

4. *Requests* the authorities concerned within the United Nations Secretariat to examine the possibility of utilizing the skills of ESCWA local staff in Amman in other areas within the United Nations or of finding ways to compensate them.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

1/ E/ESCWA/19/7.

216 (XIX). Organizational and programme changes and modifications introduced by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia since 1994

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 46/235 of 13 April 1992, 47/212 of 23 December 1992 and 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Taking note of the new trends towards the reform and adaptation of the United Nations in accordance with current world developments,

Recalling also ESCWA resolution 191 (XVI) of 2 September 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Taking note also of the organizational and programme changes and modifications introduced by the Commission since 1994,[4/]

Confirming that the priorities established in the light of recent developments correspond to the needs of member States,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* of the organizational and programme changes made and the methods adopted by the secretariat in carrying out its activities, which have made it possible to address development issues within an integrated perspective, enabled the entities concerned in the member States to make a greater contribution to the formulation of the Commission's programmes of work and to the follow-up of their implementation, and promoted greater coordination and integration with United Nations agencies and organizations as well as national and regional institutions concerned with regional development, cooperation and integration;

2. *Calls* for the enhancement of the Commission's function as a basic forum for coordinating the economic and social policies of its member States and for the development of its role in supporting regional and subregional projects aimed at expanding economic and social cooperation among member States at both the regional and subregional levels;

3. *Also calls* for the reinforcement of the role of the United Nations at the regional level, which entails the promotion of the role of the regional commissions in representing the regional dimension of global issues and in integrating United Nations activities at the international, regional and national levels;

4. *Further calls* for the granting to the Commission, within the framework of the reform of the United Nations system, of a broader mandate for carrying out its activities, including those related to regional technical cooperation projects, and for the strengthening of its role in coordinating the activities of the United Nations agencies and organizations and those of the regional and national organizations concerned, in the region in which it operates, so as to ensure that the United Nations objectives of development, freedom and peace are achieved.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

4/ E/ESCWA/19/5.

217 (XIX). Call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, to be held in 1999 in conjunction with its twentieth session, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of global and regional developments

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973, which established the Commission for the purpose of consolidating development efforts in Western Asia and promoting regional economic cooperation among the countries of the region,

Commending the activities which the Commission has undertaken since its establishment in the various fields of economic and social development, thus supporting the development efforts of the member States and promoting cooperation among them,

1. *Decides* to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission during the twentieth session, to be held in 1999;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Commission to take all measures that he deems necessary in this regard, including the preparation of the necessary studies for the celebration of that occasion;

3. *Invites* the Governments of the member States to take this opportunity to formulate a new vision, defining the role and tasks of the Commission in line with regional and world developments in the coming century;

4. *Also invites* the Governments of the member States to participate in this celebration at the highest level;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take part in this event.

2nd plenary meeting
7 May 1997

II. WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

A. ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

5. The Standing Committee for the Programme was established as the main subsidiary organ of the Commission pursuant to Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA)[1] resolution 114 (IX) of 12 May 1982 on the ECWA medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989. Pursuant to ECWA resolution 125 (XI) of 26 April 1984 on the general policy-making structure of the Commission, the Standing Committee for the Programme was designated the Technical Committee, and its terms of reference were expanded to include the examination of items on the agenda of the sessions of the Commission.

6. The tenth session of the Technical Committee was held in Beirut on 5 and 6 May 1997. Pursuant to ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI) of 2 September 1992, a second subsidiary body of ESCWA, the Statistical Committee, was created. This Committee held its first session, in which heads of statistical offices took part, from 6 to 9 November 1995; the second session was held from 24 to 26 February 1997. The report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission entitled "Report on the work of the Statistical Committee at its second session" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.6) covers the activities of this Committee during its second session.

7. The Committee on Social Development was established by ESCWA resolution 198 (XVII) of 31 May 1994. The Committee held its first session on 25 and 26 March 1997 rather than in 1995, as had been originally decided, owing to the lack of available funds for that purpose in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The report of the Executive Secretary entitled "Recommendations of the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Social Development" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/6) contains information on the first session of the Committee on Social Development, including four sets of recommendations.[2]

8. In addition, ESCWA resolution 204 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia provided for the holding of meetings of that committee every two years starting in 1996; however, owing to budgetary constraints, the first meeting was postponed and is now scheduled to be held in September 1997.

9. The secretariat held the first session of the Committee on Water Resources in Amman on 30 March 1997. ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII) of 25 May 1995 on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia had originally provided for the Committee to start meeting in 1996. The Executive Secretary's "Report on the first session of the Committee on Water Resources" (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.2) covers the activities of that first session.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

10. Pursuant to ESCWA resolution 175 (XV) of 18 May 1989 on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, an Advisory Committee was

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[1] The Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA) was redesignated the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia by Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985.

[2] The report on the work of the Statistical Committee at its second session is contained in a separate document (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/4(Part I)/Add.6).

established, made up of the heads of diplomatic missions of ESCWA member States accredited in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the host country of the temporary headquarters of the Commission, along with a representative of that host country. The Advisory Committee met in Amman four times during the period 1995-1997. The report on the Advisory Committee (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/12) contains information on its activities during that period.

C. Relations with specialized agencies and other organizations

11. The ESCWA secretariat has continued to strengthen its relations with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations, regional organizations, donor countries, the League of Arab States and its specialized organizations, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Detailed information on joint activities between ESCWA and those organizations can be found in the report "Cooperation among developing countries and regional organizations" (E/ESCWA/TCD/1997/4), which is not one of the documents submitted to the Commission at this session.

III. NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

12. The nineteenth session of the Commission was held in Beirut on 7 and 8 May 1997. The Commission, which held three meetings during the session, reviewed the items on the agenda. The Commission adopted nine resolutions, which it submitted to the Economic and Social Council for action.

13. The session was attended by the following members of the Commission:[7/] Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

14. No State Member of the United Nations that was not a member of the Commission participated as an observer at the nineteenth session.

15. Representatives of the United Nations Secretariat and the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies attended the session as observers: Regional Commissions New York Office; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Development Programme; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; World Food Programme; International Labour Organization; and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

16. In addition, representatives of the League of Arab States and of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session as observers: Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD); Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE); Arab Planning Institute (Kuwait); General Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture for Arab Countries; Union of Arab Banks; World Federation of United Nations Associations; and the World Muslim Congress.

1. *Election of officers*

17. At its 1st meeting, held on 7 May 1997, the Commission elected the following: His Excellency Mr. Fares Boueiz (head of the delegation of Lebanon) as Chairman of the nineteenth session; His Excellency Mr. Abdul Aziz Dakhil Al-Dakhil (head of the delegation of Kuwait) and His Excellency Mr. Abdul Rahim Subei (head of the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic) as Vice-Chairmen; and His Excellency Mr. Roushdy Abd El Kader (member of the delegation of Egypt) as Rapporteur.

2. *Credentials*

18. In accordance with rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, the credentials of the representatives as submitted to the Executive Secretary were examined by the officers and found to be in order.

7/ For the names of participants in the session, see annex I.

3. *Organization of work*

19. At its 1st meeting, the organization of work, as amended, was adopted (see E/ESCWA/19/2).

B. AGENDA

20. At its 1st meeting, the Commission adopted the agenda (E/ESCWA/19/1), as follows:[1/]

1. Opening of the ministerial session.

2. Election of officers.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Organization of work.

5. Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the nineteenth session of the Commission.

6. Discussion and adoption of the final report of the Technical Committee on its tenth session:

   (a) Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Commission:

      (i) Progress made during 1996 in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 1996-1997 (regular programme and technical cooperation activities);

      (ii) Follow-up action on the resolutions of the Commission adopted at its eighteenth session on the establishment of a committee on energy and a committee on water resources, and reports and recommendations of the specialized committees established pursuant to previous resolutions on statistics and social development;

         a. Resolution 204 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on energy in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

         b. Resolution 205 (XVIII) on the establishment of a committee on water resources in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

         c. Recommendations of the Statistical Committee and the Committee on Social Development;

      (iii) Preparation and follow-up action at the regional level on United Nations world conferences and ESCWA regional meetings;

1/ For a list of the documents submitted to the Commission at its nineteenth session, see annex II.

(b) Proposed medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001;

(c) Draft programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1998-1999;

(d) Financial status of the Commission's programmes;

(e) The Advisory Committee established pursuant to resolution 175 (XV) on the strengthening of the role and performance of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

(f) The regional role of ESCWA in the coordination of the activities of the United Nations agencies.

7. Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1994.

8. Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region: (ESCWA resolution 119 (X)): concerns of the ESCWA member States regarding the World Trade Organization, the related agreements and future trade negotiations.

9. Progress made in facilitating the move of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon.

10. Call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission, to be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of ESCWA in 1999, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of international and regional developments.

11. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Commission.

12. Other matters.

13. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session.

C. Opening of the session

21. The nineteenth session of the Commission was held under the patronage of His Excellency Mr. Elias Hraoui, President of the Lebanese Republic, who kindly agreed to open the session.

22. The President of the Lebanese Republic, in his opening statement, expressed his confidence in the future of the region and in its capacity for advancement. He stressed that every country within the Arab family or within the region of Western Asia could boast abundant capacities and potential in geological, political, economic and social terms, as well as in terms of both human and natural resources, and that the current challenge was to determine how those countries could best cooperate for the good of the region and in support of the fundamental values shared by the countries therein.

23. He stressed that the end of the century had brought fundamental changes in the region and major upheavals worldwide, such as the end of the cold war, the decline of bipolarity and the aggravation of social and economic problems, all of which led to the firm conviction that economic and social development

constituted the proper approach to achieving genuine stability. He further emphasized that the growing worldwide interdependence in recent years had highlighted the need for cooperation and coordination on all sides as a means of dealing with the crises of the times, in which all were concerned.

24. He underscored the need to adhere firmly to the United Nations and its Charter: indeed, the Organization had played an important role in the past half-century in peace-keeping, preventing wars, facilitating economic and social development, ensuring respect for human rights and protecting the environment. It was essential for the Organization to follow the path of justice and impartiality, working towards the establishment of peace in the region through the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 425 (1978).

25. In that connection, President Hraoui emphasized that cooperation and joint responsibility in coping with the problems of the modern world required the jettisoning of partiality and bias in dealing with major issues. That was particularly true in the case of the countries of Western Asia. There was now a pressing need for integration, which the organs and regional commissions of the United Nations, including ESCWA, must strive to bring about.

26. ESCWA played a major role in promoting economic development and in ensuring the economic and social stability that must be considered the cornerstone of political stability. The current political struggle in the Middle East should stimulate greater initiatives on the part of the member States. The programmes being carried out by ESCWA were contributing to the modernization of its member countries.

27. The Arab States had faced major challenges before peace; with peace those challenges would multiply, especially in the fields of water resources, communications and communication networks, and economic partnerships. Most of the ESCWA member States were parties to international agreements and covenants and were joining international organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. President Hraoui stressed the need for the establishment of an Arab common market.

28. In concluding his statement, President Hraoui said that the current ESCWA meeting in Beirut was a reflection of the full international confidence in Lebanon. He stated that Lebanon wished to place on record its appreciation of the cooperation and advisory services that had been extended to it by ESCWA in a number of fields. Lebanon looked forward to taking part in the Commission's Silver Jubilee session, to be held in 1999. Lebanon was confident that in Beirut ESCWA would gain a new impetus that would infuse regional cooperation with a creative spirit to enable the region to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

29. The Executive Secretary of ESCWA made a statement in which he expressed thanks to the President, the Government and the people of Lebanon for the kind efforts exerted to furnish ESCWA with state-of-the-art headquarters. He also expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Iraq and the Government of Jordan for the generous hospitality afforded to ESCWA in those two countries.

30. He said that the twentieth century, which was drawing to a close, had revealed the ugliest, cruellest and most selfish aspects of the human soul, and yet at the same time, its inherent forces of good and the tremendous capacity of mankind for progress and stability. The twentieth century had left behind a heavy legacy in which the ugliest manifestations of inhumanity appeared side by side with the noblest achievements and examples of virtue. It had truly been a century of extreme contradictions. As for the mingling of good and evil, the century had perhaps not been unlike earlier ages; what distinguished it, however, were the forms of inhuman behaviour and the proportions of the disasters that had characterized it, exceeding anything

imaginable. The century had combined the highest manifestations of civilization with the deadliest and most hideous of wars: it had been a century of savage cruelty, of economic exploitation and the squandering of resources, of political corruption, of the spread of narcotics and crime, and of the improper distribution of wealth and income.

31. Despite all this, the twentieth century had seen the most extraordinary advances in civilization, with scientific achievements that defied the imagination. The century had been marked by manifestations of cooperation and voluntary and charitable activities that made it, at least in some respects, a time of progress and advancement. There had been advances in medical science and communications; most people lived better and lived longer; and the constraints of time and place had been reduced, turning the world into one great global village. In the moral and social spheres, the century had been marked by liberation, independence and self-determination, at least in theory. It had also witnessed the beginning of the age of international organizations: the League of Nations, the United Nations and international institutions designed to regulate financial and economic dealings. In sum, though the century had been characterized by the most abominable forms of human oppression, it had also witnessed the noblest expressions of solidarity and voluntary action, as well as the recognition of the unity and common fate of the inhabitants of the planet.

32. The Executive Secretary said that in spite of everything, the twenty-first century would be greeted with hope. The United Nations, as a framework for the international order, could not remain aloof from world developments, for it was an organic entity whose capacity and vitality depended on its adapting and adjusting to conditions and on its providing leadership and guidance for the very creation of those conditions. Hence the watchword "reform"—a concept easier to recognize the need for than to define. It was for that reason, moreover, that the Secretary-General, upon assuming office, had taken pains to stress his firm intention to proceed with reform as a cumulative, ongoing process proceeding along two parallel lines: one involving administrative and organizational measures, the other relating to structural changes. The Secretary-General would submit his ideas on the question to the General Assembly at its special session to be held in July 1997. The Executive Secretary stated that the reform of the United Nations would raise a number of issues that were likely to affect the role of the regional commissions. That role was fundamental in the area of support to regional cooperation; furthermore, the existence of the regional commissions gave the United Nations a presence close to the events taking place, thus enabling it to be more aware of the particularities of each area or region. In addition, the regional commissions of the United Nations ensured coordination and cooperation with other regional organizations so as to make sure that regional trends were not in conflict with universal values.

33. The Executive Secretary turned to the questions raised in connection with the reform of the Organization that were likely to affect the activities of the regional commissions. There was an ongoing debate over the distinction between United Nations bodies that carried out analytical activities and those that engaged in activities in the field. As for the regional commissions, they were not centres of theoretical research, but rather technical assistance organs that worked in the service of the member States and offered a forum for the coordination of their economic and social policies. Such service could not be provided in an optimal way unless analytical work was integrated with work in the field. The role and activity of the regional commissions would be affected by what ultimately took place in the way of reform of the Organization in terms of allocation of responsibilities, degree of centralization or decentralization of the work of the various organizations, and forms and methods of coordination. Since its sixteenth session, ESCWA had adopted a number of measures with a view to the restructuring of the Commission and a review of work priorities, taking into account worldwide and regional changes. The twentieth session of the Commission would coincide with its twenty-fifth anniversary, by which time the Commission would have moved and

settled—by the grace of God—in its permanent headquarters in Beirut. That would also coincide with the end of a century and the dawn of a new millennium. The Executive Secretary called for the celebration of the event in a manner that befitted such a glorious occasion, particularly in view of the fact that the Secretary-General had expressed great interest in that event as well as his willingness to take part in it personally.

D. Main topics of discussion and results

1. *Discussion and adoption of the final report of the Technical Committee on its tenth session* (Agenda item 6)

34. Before proceeding to the discussion of the final report of the Technical Committee, the representatives of the member States took the decision that the statement of His Excellency Mr. Elias Hraoui, President of the Lebanese Republic would be considered an official document of the session.

35. The Rapporteur of the Technical Committee presented the final report of that Committee on its tenth session (E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14), held on 5 and 6 May 1996. The Executive Secretary reviewed the main features of the report, including the changes that had taken place in the focus and working methods of ESCWA. The representatives of the member States adopted the report of the Technical Committee, whose recommendations were translated into resolutions which, following approval by the Economic and Social Council, would be implemented by the secretariat. The representatives of the member States stressed the following points:

(a) The fact that ESCWA was a regional organization whose mandate was based on the Charter and general focus of the United Nations, though the Commission must take into consideration the particularities and interests of the region in translating that focus into concrete activities;

(b) The need for ESCWA, in dealing with economic and social issues, to adapt internationally applied methods, indicators, standards and measuring tools in such a way as to give an accurate picture of the individual economic and social features of its member States;

(c) The need for greater interaction between the secretariat and the organs concerned in the member States so as to assist the Commission in fulfilling its technical role of coordination, which was based on the common interests of its members and ensured an effective impact on regional and international policies that had a bearing on the interests of the member States;

(d) The need to accord priority to practical issues when helping member States to adapt to regional and international developments, through the development of the activities of the secretariat in the field of technical cooperation;

(e) The need to increase and develop the participation of those in charge of specialized areas in the member countries, together with the experts of the secretariat, in all the planning and implementation phases of the studies included in the programme of work so as to ensure that such studies genuinely reflected the needs and interests of the member States.

2. *Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1994*
(Agenda item 7)

36. The Executive Secretary presented the issues reviewed in his note entitled "Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1994" (E/ESCWA/19/5), highlighting the following points:

(a) The most important steps taken by the secretariat with a view to its restructuring, including the conversion of 15 sectoral subprogrammes to 5 thematic subprogrammes; the according of priority to multidisciplinary activities; reduction of the activities of sections dealing with issues dealt with by other organizations within the United Nations; changes in organizational structure in keeping with the new focus of the secretariat; the strengthening of interaction with member States through the Advisory Committee; meetings with representatives of the ESCWA member States at United Nations Headquarters in New York; and coordination with United Nations organizations through the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Group;

(b) The report of the Office of Inspections and Investigations to the effect that the secretariat had complied with the Office's recommendations on restructuring;

(c) The holding of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on the Role and the Future of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, involving participants from the region with a broad knowledge of regional affairs, for the purpose of assessing the work of ESCWA from the standpoint of the reforms carried out. The participants in the Meeting expressed satisfaction with the Commission's basic orientations.

3. *Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (ESCWA resolution 119 (X)): concerns of the ESCWA member States regarding the World Trade Organization, the related agreements and future trade negotiations*
(Agenda item 8)

37. The secretariat made a brief presentation on the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the importance of the related agreements (E/ESCWA/19/6). During the discussion of the document, the Executive Secretary pointed out that the goal of ESCWA in that regard was to assist member States in their dealings with WTO in such a way as to safeguard their interests.

38. In the opinion of one delegation, dealing with the World Trade Organization was not an easy matter, owing to the conditions imposed on countries desirous of becoming members and entering into agreements. It added that, in dealing with WTO, one must be guided by the need to prevail upon it to change its approach, particularly in a monopolar international system, and that the ESCWA member countries were characterized by a variety of concerns.

39. The secretariat pointed out that ESCWA could play a role in serving the interests of the region in that regard by providing advice on joining the World Trade Organization and working to establish a uniform, integrated concept of the relationship with that organization.

4. *Progress made in facilitating the move of ESCWA to its permanent site in Beirut, Lebanon*
(Agenda item 9)

40. The Executive Secretary, referring to agenda item 9, said that Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/43 provided for Beirut to be the permanent headquarters of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. He highlighted a number of important points that deserved attention and examination: the Lebanese Government had initially offered El-Murr Tower to house the Commission's headquarters but had subsequently chosen a second site, which was being prepared exclusively for that purpose. The secretariat had therefore deemed it appropriate to ask the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations for an opinion regarding that change. The Office of Legal Affairs reported that the decision had pertained to the relocation of ESCWA to the city of Beirut, without reference to any building, and that it would suffice if the building satisfied the requisite conditions and specifications to enable the Commission to perform its tasks.

41. The secretariat had informed the Government of Lebanon to that effect, and the Government had accordingly presented the sketches and plans for a new building, which would be owned by the SOLIDERE Company. The Government of Lebanon had requested the secretariat to submit the requirements and specifications that would meet the conditions imposed by the United Nations. The secretariat had done so. The Government of Lebanon had submitted to the secretariat the lease concluded between the Government and SOLIDERE, together with all the related contracts. The secretariat had sent those documents to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs for examination with a view to the preparation of the headquarters agreement and the supplementary agreement on the building, so as to ensure the uninterrupted performance of the Commission's work. The Office of Legal Affairs had prepared a draft headquarters agreement and a supplementary agreement concerning the building, both of which had been sent to the Government of Lebanon for examination. It was agreed that a delegation would be sent by the Office of Legal Affairs to discuss the two agreements with the Government of Lebanon at the end of May 1997. In addition, the building security plan had been sent to the United Nations Secretariat in New York for study, and a representative of the Security and Safety Service was to be sent to Beirut within a few days to discuss the plan and ascertain the soundness of the building and of measures and provisions for safety in accordance with United Nations requirements. When those steps were satisfactorily completed, the relocation would take place once the building had been equipped to make it fit for use, the necessary legal agreements had been signed, and the required financial resources for carrying out the move had been provided.

42. At the same time, the secretariat had proceeded to prepare the necessary plans for the move in such a way as to avoid disrupting the execution of the Commission's programmes of work and to take into account the needs of its staff from every point of view, in the manner set out in the note by the Executive Secretary entitled "Progress made in facilitating the move of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon" (E/ESCWA/19/7).

43. Following these explanatory remarks, the Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the efforts being made by the Government of Lebanon in spite of the difficult conditions under which it was currently operating.

5. *Call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission, to be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of ESCWA in 1999, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of international and regional developments*
(Agenda item 10)

44. The Executive Secretary reviewed the content of his note calling for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission (E/ESCWA/19/8), and said that he had discussed the matter with the Secretary-General, who had indicated his willingness to participate in the event.

45. The participants in the session welcomed the Executive Secretary's call for a celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Commission. They expressed the hope that the event would be not only a celebration, but a new starting-point for the Commission. They stressed the need for a study to be carried out on the role of ESCWA in the twenty-first century; an assessment of regional economic cooperation; and the issuance of a declaration embodying the Commission's vision of the future and its role in coordinating the policies of the member States in the economic and social spheres and broadening cooperation between them.

6. *Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Commission*
(Agenda item 11)

46. The Commission decided that the twentieth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia should be held in Beirut at such time as would be determined by the secretariat in consultation with the Government of Lebanon.

7. *Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session*
(Agenda item 13)

47. The Commission adopted the report on its twentieth session after the agreed amendments had been made thereto.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. ESCWA MEMBERS

Bahrain

H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saqr Al Khalifa
Deputy Minister of Labour
and Social Affairs

Mr. Abdul Razak Zain Al Abedin
Director of Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce

Mr. Abdullah Mohamed Saad Al-Romahi
Counsellor
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ebrahim Juma Al-Doy
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Embassy of Bahrain in the
Syrian Arab Republic

Mr. Khalid Ali Sabt
Secretary to the Deputy Minister

Egypt

H.E. Mr. Sayed Kassem El Masry
Ambassador, Assistant to the Minister
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Adel Abd El Moneim El Khedry
Ambassador
Embassy of Egypt in Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Hany Riadh Aly
Ambassador
Embassy of Egypt in Jordan

H.E. Mr. Roushdy Abd El Kader
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Ministry of Supplies and Internal Trade

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Mr. Farid Munib
First Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohamed Negm
Diplomatic Attaché
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Iraq

H.E. Mr. Nouri I. Taha Al-Wayes
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Mr. Faisal Said Meidi
Embassy of Iraq in Jordan

Jordan

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Ministry of Planning

Mr. Abdel Karim Mahasneh
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Ministry of Planning

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H.E. Mr. Abdul Aziz Dakhil Al-Dakhil
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Kuwait (*continued*)

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Assistant Under-Secretary
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Mr. Hassan Mohammad Merza
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Section/Department of Economic Affairs
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Faisal Khalifa Al-Shaiya
Director, Department of Public Relations
General Secretariat of the Council
of Ministers

Lebanon

H.E. Mr. Fares Boueiz
Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Zafer El-Hassan
Secretary-General
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Walid Nasr
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Director of International Organizations
Department
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General Director of the Ministry
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Bassam Jaber
Engineer, General Director
Ministry of Hydraulic and Electrical
Resources

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Ministry of Social Affairs

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Council for Development and
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Mr. Hilmi Ghandour
Adviser to the Minister
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Mr. Toufik Shanbour
Director of External Affairs
Central Bank of Lebanon

Mr. Habib Khawaja
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Ministry of Social Affairs

Mr. Georges Nehmeh
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Ministry of Social Affairs

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Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. Adnan Ghazzawi
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Engineer, Assistant General Director of Housing
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Ms. Nancy Khoury
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Ms. Hala Fakhoury
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Ministry of Environment

Ms. Salwa Baasiri
National Commission for Women's Rights

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Ministry of Development

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Director, Arab and International Economic Organizations Department
Ministry of National Economy

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Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chief, Political Department, Palestine Liberation Organization

Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout
Director, Office of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Lebanon

Mr. Zuhdi Labib Tarazi
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Mr. Omar Shaka'a
Director, Political Department, Palestine Liberation Organization

Ms. Ghania Hifzy Malhis
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H.E. Mr. Ahmad Ben Abdullah Al Mahmood
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Qatar (*continued*)

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ali Hassan Al-Khalaf
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Ministry of Finance, Economy and Trade

Mr. Yousef Ahmad Al-Emadi
Head, Industrial Studies and
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Ministry of Energy and Industry

Mr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Mohannadi
Head, International Relations Section
Ministry of Finance, Economy and Trade

Mr. Mohammad Ali Al-Bade
Second Secretary, Office of the Minister
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Zayed Saeed Al-Khayareen
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Head, Social Development Department
Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

Mr. Yaaqob Abdullah Mohamed Al-Haj
Assistant Director, Department of
Agricultural and Water Research
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
and Agriculture

Mr. Ali Al-Molla
Protocol Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Saudi Arabia

H.E. Mr. Ma'amoun Al-Kurdi
Deputy Minister, Economic Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammad Saleh Al-Qufeidi
Minister Plenipotentiary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Abdul Mo'men Mohammad Sharaf
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammad Khayyat
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Mohammed Fida'a El-Din Al-Idriss
General Director, Coordination Sectors
Ministry of Planning

Syrian Arab Republic

H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Subei
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Ministry of Planning

Mr. Toufik Ismail
Deputy Minister of State, Planning Affairs
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Sami Glaiel
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Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Ahmad Hassan
Deputy Director, Scientific and
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State Planning Commission

Mr. Ibrahim Ali
Director
Central Bureau of Statistics

United Arab Emirates

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H.E. Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Mansour
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Ministry of Planning

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Ministry of Planning

Mr. Rihan Mubarak Fayez
Director, Planning Directorate
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Mr. Khalifa Buti Al-Shamsi
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Ministry of Planning

Yemen

H.E. Mr. Mutahar Abdullah Al-Saeedi
Vice-Minister Planning and Development
Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr. Ahmed Hamood Qalama
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Ministry of Planning and Development

Mr. Abdul Ilah Kaid Abdullah
Consultant
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Mr. Gamal Yaqoob Abdul Mageed
Director, Organization of the Islamic Conference
Chief, ESCWA Section
Ministry of Planning and Development

B. United Nations Secretariat bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations in the United Nations system

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mr. Amor Ben Romdhane
FAO Representative, Lebanon

International Labour Organization

Mr. Nabil Khoury
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Beirut

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Mr. Hafid Alaoui
UNHCR Representative, Lebanon

Regional Commissions New York Office

Ms. Sulafa I. Al-Bassam
Chief

United Nations Children's Fund

Mr. Thomas Ekvall
UNICEF Representative, Lebanon

United Nations Development Programme

Mr. Ross S. Mountain
Resident Representative/Resident Coordinator, Lebanon

World Food Programme

Mr. Miled Mustapha
WFP Representative, Lebanon

World Health Organization

Mr. Abdel Hay Mechbal
WHO Representative, Lebanon

C. GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands

Mr. Nuri Rohuma
Assistant Director General

Arab Planning Institute - Kuwait

Mr. Essa M. Al-Ghazali
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Programme Officer

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Assistant Secretary-General

League of Arab States

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Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries

Mr. Abdul Muhsin T. Muzaffar
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Union of Arab Banks

Mr. Ali Zineddine
Manager, Public Relations

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Mr. Samir Michel Daher
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Mr. Milad Massoud Jarjoui
Chief, Environment and Development Committee (Lebanon Office)

World Muslim Congress

Mr. Sufyan Tell
Consultant

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS NINETEENTH SESSION

Symbol	Agenda item	Title
E/ESCWA/19/L.1	3	Provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/19/L.1/Add.1	3	Annotated provisional agenda
E/ESCWA/19/L.2	4	Proposed organization of work
E/ESCWA/19/3	5	Invitation to States Members of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies not members of the Commission to participate in the capacity of observer in the nineteenth session of the Commission
E/ESCWA/C.1/19/14 E/ESCWA/19/4	6	Report of the Technical Committee on its tenth session
E/ESCWA/19/5	7	Programme and organizational changes and modifications made by ESCWA since 1994
E/ESCWA/19/6	8	Current issues of importance to the ESCWA region (ESCWA resolution 119 (X)): concerns of the ESCWA member States regarding the World Trade Organization, the related agreements and future trade negotiations
E/ESCWA/19/7	9	Progress made in facilitating the move of ESCWA to its permanent headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon
E/ESCWA/19/8	10	Call for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission, to be held in conjunction with the twentieth session of ESCWA in 1999, and discussion of the role of the Commission in the coming century in view of international and regional developments

Annex III

LIST OF PRINCIPAL PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS EIGHTEENTH SESSION

Symbol	Title
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5	The Impact of the Single European Market In ESCWA Member Countries, Summary and Recommendations
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.1	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume II, Foreign Trade
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.2 E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/8	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume III, Agriculture
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.3	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume IV, Trade in Manufactured Products
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.4	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume V, Banking
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/5/Add.5 E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/1	The Impact of the Single European Market on the ESCWA Member Countries, Volume VI, Science and Technology
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/9	Analytical Review of Developments and Issues in the External Trade and Payments Situation of Countries of the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/ED/1996/2	Trade of the Arab World with China, 1987-1994: Composition and Trends
E/ESCWA/ED/1996/3/Add.1	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1995, Part Two, Privatization in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/ED/1996/3/Rev.1	Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the ESCWA Region, 1995
E/ESCWA/ED/1996/4	Trade Policy Aspects of Environmental Measures in the ESCWA Member Countries
E/ESCWA/ENR/1995/14	Assessment of Water Quality in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/ENR/1997/1	Assessment of Privatization of the Electric Power Sector in Selected ESCWA Member Countries

E/ESCWA/HS/1996/2	The Effect of Modernization, Sedentarization and State Formation on Bedouin Societies in the Arab World
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/7	Industrial Strategies and Policies in the ESCWA Region within the Context of Changing International and Regional Environment
E/ESCWA/ID/1995/8/Rev.1	Towards Cleaner Production in the Oil and Gas Industry in the ESCWA Countries
E/ESCWA/POP/1997/1	Population Bulletin of ESCWA, No. 44
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/8/Rev.1	Poverty in Western Asia: A Social Perspective (Eradicating Poverty Studies Series No. 1)
E/ESCWA/STAT/1995/IG.1/16	Report of the Statistical Committee on its First Session
E/ESCWA/STAT/1996/12	External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, 8th Issue
E/ESCWA/STAT/1996/13	National Accounts Studies of the ESCWA Region, Bulletin No. 16
E/ESCWA/STAT/1996/15	Statistical Abstract of the ESCWA Region, Sixteenth Issue (in English and Arabic)
E/ESCWA/TECH/1995/3/Rev.1	Revitalization of Research and Development in the ESCWA Region
E/ESCWA/TRANS/1996/1	Transport Bulletin, No. 7
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/6	تحليل التطورات الحديثة في القطاع الزراعي في بلدان الإسكوا خلال عام ١٩٩٤
E/ESCWA/AGR/1995/14/Rev.1	آفاق التكامل الزراعي بين الأردن والجمهورية العربية السورية والعراق ولبنان
E/ESCWA/ED/1995/11	الخصخصة في دول الإسكوا ذات الاقتصاد المتنوع
E/ESCWA/HS/1995/4	منظور إقليمي لأوضاع المستوطنات البشرية في بلدان الإسكوا
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/5 E/ESCWA/SD/1994/WG.4-WOM/8	تغير القيم في العائلة العربية سلسلة دراسات عن المرأة العربية في التنمية (٢١)
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/6	الأحكام المتعلقة بعمل النساء في التشريعات العربية سلسلة دراسات عن المرأة العربية في التنمية (٢٣)
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/7	التنمية البشرية في الوطن العربي: الأبعاد الثقافية والمجتمعية
E/ESCWA/SD/1995/8/Add.1/Rev.1	قياس الفقر في دول اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا
E/ESCWA/SD/1996/4	تمويل التنمية البشرية في الأقطار العربية